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M E M O R A N D U M
January 4, 1961

On Thursday, December 22, 1960, I visited the Roy M. Johnson, Watson Fee Wells No. 1, 2, 3 and 4, located in Sections 27 and 34, Township 9 South, Range 25 East, Uintah County, Utah.

The town of Bonanza, Utah, has been obtaining culinary water from wells drilled in the bed of the White River some distance down-stream from the above abandoned oil wells. Bonanza's water supply showed substantial amounts of hydrogen sulphide, and a company they retained to analyze the contamination advised them that the most common source of this contamination was abandoned oil wells leaking sulphur water. The Bonanza people investigated and found that the above wells, 2, 3 and 4, were flowing some amounts of sulphur which ran directly into the White River. They secured the permission of the present owner of the land on which the wells were located to weld steel plates or plugs on top of the open casing of these three wells and had these plates welded on in the early part of December. These temporary plugs should not be considered as sufficient, and permanent plugging of the last three wells should be required.

Photographs were taken of all four wells on December 22, and are attached in the file for reference.

Well No. 1 - SW SW SW of Sec. 27, T. 9 S., R. 25 E., Uintah Co.

This well appears to be properly plugged and abandoned. It is located in the river bed and is probably surrounded by water when the river is higher. When the well was drilled, the location was some distance from the river; however, the river has evidently meandered around the well. There appeared to be several sizes of conductor pipe from approximately

20" down to approximately 10" set and cemented to the surface, and a string of 8 5/8" cemented and extending about 10 feet above the current level of the river bed. There was no sulphur water leaking from this well.

Well No. 2 - NW NW NW of Sec. 34, T. 9 S., R. 25 E., Uintah Co.

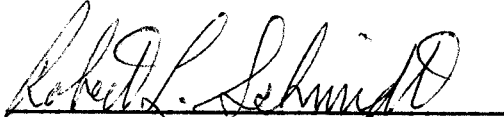
This well was originally drilled by Johnson and later deepened by Phillips. Johnson had set 7" casing at 8343' with 350 sacks of cement. Phillips deepened the well and then plugged it back leaving all of the 7" casing in the hole. Since that time someone has apparently shot off and pulled some of the 7" leaving an open hole from the top of the casing stub to the bottom of the 13 3/4" surface casing set at 360'. The Drillers Log shows a sulphur water sand from 438-448', and this is evidently the source of the water which flowed to the surface after the 7" pipe was pulled. This well flowed an estimated 5 gallons per minute of sulphur water before the steel plate was welded on top of the 8 5/8" casing exposed at the surface. (We have no record of any 8 5/8" pipe in this well.)

Well No. 3 - NW SW NW of Sec. 34, T. 9 S., R. 25 E., Uintah Co.

This well was never properly plugged and has evidently been leaking for some time. We have no record of the amount or size of casing set, although it appears to have 7" casing at the surface. An electric log shows casing set at approximately 50' although we do not know whether this is the 7" or may be a larger diameter surface casing. A steel plate has been welded on top of a flange on the 7" pipe, and a 2" bull plug set in the side of the pipe. This well flowed an estimated 5 gallons per minute of sulphur water before the plate was welded.

Well No. 4 - SW SW NW of Sec. 34, T. 9 S., R. 25 E., Uintah Co.

This well was also drilled prior to the existance of the Commission and very little information is available. A shop-made bull plug is welded to the top of a collar on the 8 5/8" casing at the surface. A 2" bull plug is set in the side of the big plug. This well flowed an estimated 15 gallons of sulphur water per minute before the bull plug was installed. This well was evidently never properly plugged.


ROBERT L. SCHMIDT,
CHIEF PETROLEUM ENGINEER

RLS:awg

JOHNSON-WATSON FEE # 1 WELL



(Negatives in Johnson-Watson Fee #1 File)

January 25, 1961

Mr. C. R. Henderson
R. F. D. No. 1
Vernal, Utah

Dear Chuck:

We sent the enclosed letter to the Watson Oil Company, Attention: Henry L. Cornat, President, Vernal, Utah, and it was returned to us today. Could you possibly get their address from Hugh Colton and forward the letter to them?

We also sent copies of the letter to Hugh Colton and the American Gilsonite Company.

See you on the 7th.

Yours very truly,

Chicago